



Montessori Matters



RMS students participated in the International Peace Day with song and musical accompaniment from faculty and Middle School students. (see page two)

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Volunteers are Needed

Volunteers are needed to help Children's House – Middle School aged children on picture day. Pictures will be taken on Wednesday, October 12th. Please contact Kidron. Thank you.

On the Calendar

October

- 11 Children's House Parents' Night:
Mathematics 5:30 – 7:00 PM
- 12 School Pictures: Children's House,
Elementary / Middle School Programs
- 19 Board Meeting 7:00 PM
- 21 **No School:**
Professional Development Day
- 25 Birches Parents' Morning Visit
7:50 – 8:30 AM
- 27 Oaks Parents' Morning Visit
7:50 – 8:30 AM
- 28 Ginkgos Parents' Fall Gathering
10:30 – 11:30 AM
- 31 Scholastic Book Fair Begins

Meet our Faculty

By Shannon McRaith

Note: This is the first in a series of faculty introductions.

The Pinecones

Meet Melissa Miland, our guide in the Pinecones Toddler room. Melissa has worked with toddlers at RMS since 1999. Her obvious love for Montessori as well as for toddlers comes through as she described her memories. When first interviewed to work at RMS, she was so impressed with how quiet and calm the school was. She also loved how everything was hands on, and that the children were free to move about the classroom.

Melissa chose to work with this age group because she feels it's a fun age. The children make her smile and laugh every day. She also finds herself inspired since "they are who they are." She loves seeing the world through their eyes as everything is new and exciting to them.

Melissa's favorite time of day with the toddlers is during their morning gatherings when they sing songs and do finger plays. She loves watching the children's eyes light up when they start to sing and the cuteness of their hand movements. If Melissa could choose one thing that parents should know from all that she has learned through her years of working with toddlers, it is that children at this young age are very capable of doing many things if they are just given the opportunity!

Melissa was born in Colorado, but grew up in Tucson, Arizona. She now lives in Rochester with her husband. They have two boys. When not at school, Melissa likes to spend time with her family going on bike rides, watching movies, and being with friends. She also has been an avid runner for the past few years has competed in various races. Her latest was a “mud run” which involved a race course of fun and unusual obstacles. She is also hoping to run a half marathon in the next year. Melissa says that running is something that clears her head and reenergizes her.

Meet Sarah Dennis our assistant in the Pinecones Toddler room. Sara has been with RMS working with toddlers since 2005. Sarah started to work with young children when she was a teenager; a family member had suggested she look into the Montessori Method. Sarah then found herself at RMS, and she feels very fortunate to have discovered this approach to learning as it is a perfect fit for her.

Sarah chose to work with this age group because she finds the toddlers to be inspiring. They have an amazing ability to surprise you and accomplish tasks that we sometimes don't think that they can. She loves to watch the children arrive in the morning when they are fresh and ready to learn, work, and investigate.

If Sarah could choose one thing that she has learned through her years of working with children that all parents should know is that toddlers are much more capable of accomplishing independent tasks when given the right guidance and allowed to experiment on their own. “Don't do it for them, show them.”



Meet the faculty: Sarah Dennis and Melissa Miland team together in the Pinecones classroom.

Sarah was born and raised in Rochester, and currently resides in Plainview, MN. She lives with her husband of 24 years and their three children, Nathan, Abbi, and Chloe. When not attending her children's sporting events, or volunteering at their schools, she likes to go camping and enjoys trips to the Mississippi river. Sarah also likes to unwind after school by going on a walk or bike ride on the bike trail near her home.



International Peace Day

RMS Celebrates
International Peace Day

On Wednesday September 21st the RMS students and staff joined 80,000 fellow Montessori students from 35 different countries in singing the peace song, “Light a Candle for Peace” on the United Nation's International Day of Peace celebration.

Montessori schools have been participating in this event since 2009 and each year more and more schools join in the festivities. The hope is to have the song sung continuously around the world for a full 24 hours on International Peace Day. The children were very excited to be included this year and our goal is to continue to build upon this tradition in the coming years.

Lead in song by Ms. Janine, they





Scenes from Eagle Bluff: The E2, two night, three day annual start to the school year retreat included high ropes adventures, science classes and more.

were also accompanied by Emily (Middle School Guide) who played the viola, and our very own Theo and Martin from the Middle school joined in by playing the keyboard and drums!

Listed below are the words to the song as well as a link to download the song. It is our hope to have a video of the event on our web site for all to view.

*Light a candle for peace,
Light a candle for love,
Light a candle that shines,
All the way around the world.*

*Light a candle for me,
Light a candle for you,
That our wish for world peace,
Will one day come true*

*Sing Peace Around the World
Sing Peace Around the World
Sing Peace Around the World
Sing Peace Around the World*

<http://www.shelleymurley.com/free/LyricsForPeace/downloadSong.htm>

The Media Center

The Media Center needs your help! We have decided to take the next step in making the Media Center feel more like home.

The staff at RMS wants to have a "theme" for the Media Center. We will focus on a continent each semester, and we will begin with North America.

This is where we need your help. If you have anything that you would like to donate to the school as a display, decoration, activity that surrounds the theme of North America please bring it in to the school. Your items will be handled with care and returned to you when the semester is over.

If you have anything to share please bring them in by Friday, October 7th. Also, please remember to label everything so they may be returned to their proper owners in January.

Thank you for your time and effort,

The RMS Media Center Committee

Eagle Bluff

By Roxy McKinley

This year the E2 class went to the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center. We stayed over night for two nights and took four classes. The classes included archery, and we learned how to aim and shoot a compound bow and a re-curved bow. Trees and Keys was another one of our classes. We used dichotomous keys to identify different trees.

Then we went on a course to identify all the trees. It was difficult but fun. In between classes we had recess, and we played "prisoner" (a kind of volleyball) and tether ball. The class E2 liked the most was Treetops. This is high ropes. The course had different obstacles. Some of them were hard but other were very fun. Birds was the last class. We watched different birds, and we played a migrating game.

Overall, Eagle Bluff was a very fun place to visit, and E2 will go back for many years.